MANITOBA

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON WILDLIFE 1982-83

The Department of Natural Resources

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON WILDLIFE

FOR THE 1982/83 FISCAL YEAR

To Her Honour
The Honourable Pearl McGonigal,
Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Manitoba.

Your Honour:

It is with a great deal of pleasure I present to you the annual Report to the Legislature on Wildlife.

This report includes all aspects of the administration of The Wildlife Act by the Department of Natural Resources for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1983.

Al Mackling,
Minister.

The Honourable Al Mackling,
Minister,
Department of Natural Resources.

Sir:

I am pleased to present the annual Report to the Legislature on Wildlife which includes all aspects of the administration of The Wildlife Act by the Department of Natural Resources for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1983. It also contains a review of wildlife allocations as required by Section 83(1) of The Act.

R. L. (Nick) Carter,
Deputy Minister.

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REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE 1982/83

INTRODUCTION

Manitoba's heritage is closely linked with its wildlife. The health of wild animal populations is often thought of as an indicator of the well-being of the environment. No one would want to contemplate a Manitoba where loons don't laugh, elk don't bugle and wolves don't howl. Were our wildlife to disappear, the pulse of wilderness that has always been Manitoba would just as surely disappear. The Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources is charged with responsibility of protecting this important component of life in Manitoba. Through The Wildlife Act, effective conservation is afforded to virtually all of the province's wild creatures.

The Wildlife Act (Part V 83 (1)) calls for an annual report to the Legislature on its administration and a review of the wildlife allocations for that fiscal year. This document describes undertakings in the administration of this Act during the 1982/83 fiscal year.

WILDLIFE ALLOCATIONS

Wildlife policy states that it is the responsibility of government as the resource steward to ensure that appropriate use is made of wildlife. Use must not jeopardize its existence or severely damage populations. Based on this fundamental precept, wildlife is allocated in order that:

1. it contributes the greatest benefit to the citizens of Manitoba;
2. regulatory controls do not severely impair optimum use;
3. there be a minimum infringement of individual freedom of choice;
4. fundamental ecological principles are adhered to;
5. there will be maximum protection of life and property from wildlife;
6. Treaty Indian rights to hunt for food are ensured;
7. use be consistent with established rights and traditional privileges. Specifically, in order of priority, allocation will be:
   a) Treaty Indian hunting rights on Crown lands;
   b) commercial use of fur bearers;
   c) resident recreational use;
   d) non-resident use.
8. no primary user shall receive exclusive right in a given area, and thereby automatically exclude other uses;
9. scientific use of wildlife is encouraged;
10. educational benefit to Manitobans is promoted;
11. a variety of forms and amounts of wildlife use opportunities shall be made available.

LEGISLATION

The present Manitoba Wildlife Act was proclaimed on August 29, 1980. During the 1980/81 fiscal year, 11 regulations were passed while 8 were repealed. The following year, 1981/82, 13 regulations were passed and 15 were repealed. This year, 1982/83, the following regulations were passed by the Minister or by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Number	Pertaining to
69/83	training and use of dogs in hunting
64/83	hunting of wild turkeys
63/83	hunting of black bears
24/83	collecting of amphibians and reptiles
212/82	compensation for loss or damage of agricultural produce by wildlife
205/82	discharge of firearms
180/82	hunting
152/82	Churchill Special Conservation Area
147/82	Grant's Lake and Oak Hammock managed hunting areas
76/82	Wildlife Management Areas
75/82	compensation for hunter-killed or injured livestock.

The following is a list of regulations repealed during the 1982/83 fiscal year.

Number	Pertaining to
59/82	hunting of wild turkeys
64/82	hunting of black bears
91/82	collecting amphibians and reptiles
324/74	agricultural loss compensation
178/82	discharge of firearms
212/81	hunting
205/74	Grant's Lake managed hunting area
171/79	Oak Hammock managed hunting area
Sec. 1 & 2 of 182/79	Oak Hammock waterfowl control area
89/72	compensation for hunter killed livestock
142/78	furbearing animals.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of The Wildlife Act rests primarily with the Regional Services Branch. Total offences encountered by Regional Services personnel in 1982/83 decreased 28 percent from the previous year. Some 557 charges were laid and 284 written warnings were issued. Another 22 charges and 21 warnings were issued under The Migratory Birds Convention Act. Nearly 48 percent of all offences occurred in the Southwestern and Southeastern Regions. The most common charges under the Wildlife act were nightlighting (24%), loaded firearm in a vehicle (20%), possessing illegally taken wildlife (8%) and hunting on private land without permission (7%). A detailed questionnaire to deer hunters, seeking information on their perception of enforcement officers, Department programs and wildlife issues was prepared and circulated.

HUNTER SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAM

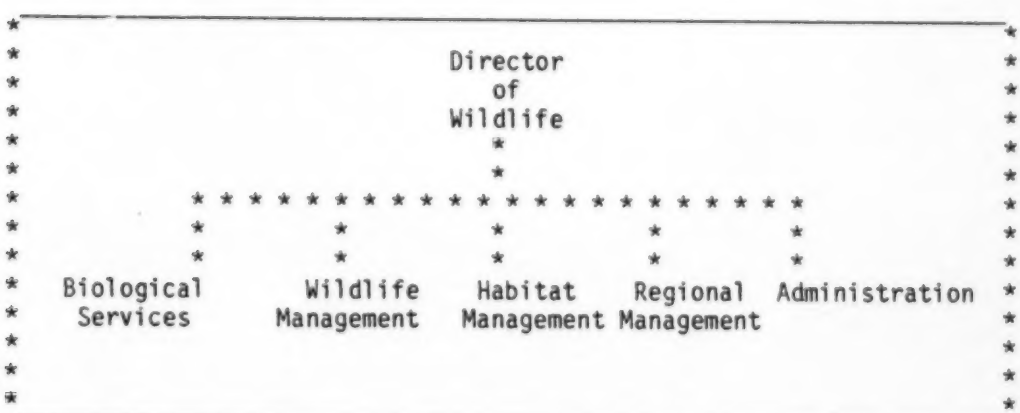
The Hunter Safety Program aims to provide comprehensive training in firearm safety in Manitoba. The promotion of ethical hunter behaviour is stressed in this program. In 1982/83, 4389 persons graduated from this course. To date, 87,708 persons have graduated since 1964 when the program began. There were 35 firearm accidents in Manitoba in 1982, one of which was fatal. This compares with the 47 accidents in 1981 (four of which were fatal). The

ten year average (1972-1981) is nearly 52 accidents per year. Eight of the 35 accidents in 1982 involved hunter safety course graduates. However, since inception of the program in 1964 only 0.1% of accidents have involved program graduates.

THE WILDLIFE BRANCH

The Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources is charged by the Legislature with the primary responsibility of administering various aspects of The Wildlife Act. The Wildlife Branch is divided into five complementary sections. The organization (Figure 1) and responsibilities of the Branch is as follows:

Figure 1:



Administration

The support of Wildlife Branch staff and programs is provided for by the Administration Section. This section is responsible for financial management and staff relations. The section's objectives include ensuring observance of administrative procedures and regulations, inter-agency liaison and Branch program definition and monitoring. The approved Branch budget for the 1982/83 fiscal year was $3.64 million dollars (Table 1 and Figure 2). The income to government derived from wildlife based activities (such as license fees, royalties and fines) amounted to $2.08 million dollars (Table 2 and Figure 3). The Administration Section had 5 staff and a budget of $148,600 in the 1982/83 fiscal year.

Table 1. Wildlife Branch Budget 1982/83

Total Salaries		$1,885,000
Other Expenditures		
- Administration	$ 23,200	
- Wildlife Management Section	$ 127,600	
- Habitat Management Section	$ 231,700	
- Biological Services Section	$ 190,200	
- Regional Management	$ 190,600	
- Community Wildlife Management	$ 180,300	
- Wild Fur Management	$ 236,500	
- Waterfowl Damage Agreement	$ 600,000	
- Big Game Damage Compensation	$ 215,300	
Sub-total		$1,995,400
Grant Assistance		$ 46,000
Total Budgetted		$3,926,400
Funds Recoverable to Wildlife Branch		
- From Northern Affairs	$ 288,400	
Total Approved Budget		$3,638,000
Funds Recoverable to Manitoba		
- From Canada (Wild Fur)	$ 290,000	
- From Canada (Waterfowl Agreement)	300,000	
Sub-total	$ 590,000	

Table 2: Wildlife Based Revenues 1982/83

Hunting License Sales		
- Wildlife Certificates	$ 206,369.00	
- Game Bird Licenses	$ 618,143.00	
- Black Bear Licenses	$ 65,308.50	
- Big Game License Replacement	$ 763.00	
- Caribou Licenses	$ 7,575.00	
- Deer Licenses	$ 734,227.00	
- Elk Licenses	$ 94,025.00	
- Moose Licenses	$ 179,312.00	
- Wild Turkey Licenses	$ 3,040.00	
Sub-total Hunting Licenses		$1,909,526.00
Commercial License Sales		
- Trapper's Licenses	$ 29,828.00	
- Fur Dealer Licenses	$ 3,750.00	
- Tanners' Licenses	$ 30.00	
- Taxidermist Licenses	$ 1,100.00	
- Shooting Preserve Licenses	$ 300.00	
- Dog Trainer Licenses	$ 824.00	
- Game Bird Farm Licenses	$ 980.00	
- Amphibian/Reptile Licenses	$ 420.00	
Sub-total Commercial Licenses		$ 37,232.00
Fur Royalties		$ 67,159.00*
Misc. Revenues		$ 4,088.11
Fines from Violations under The Wildlife Act		$ 59,726.75
Total Wildlife-based Revenues		$2,077,731.80

* based on the fur year, September, 1981 - August 31, 1982.

Figure 1.

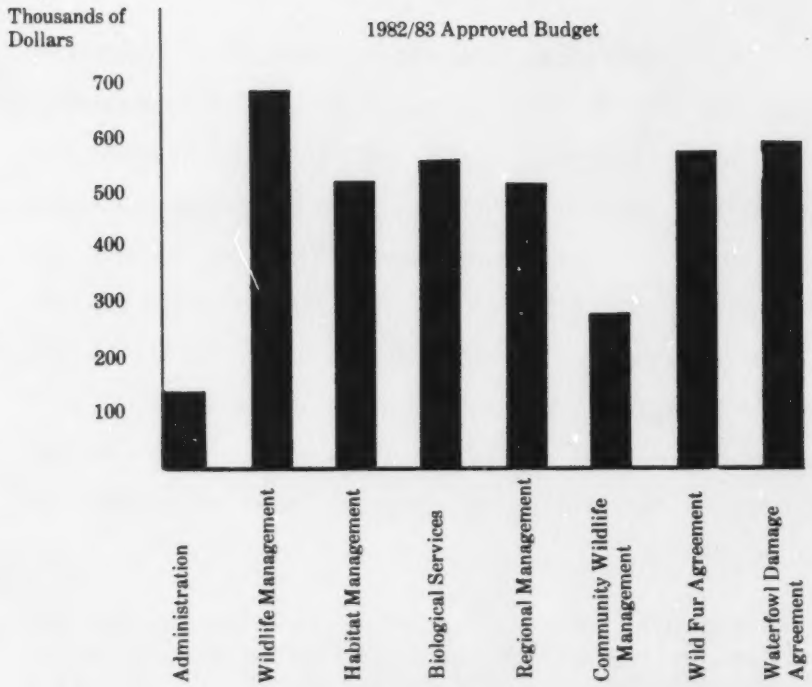
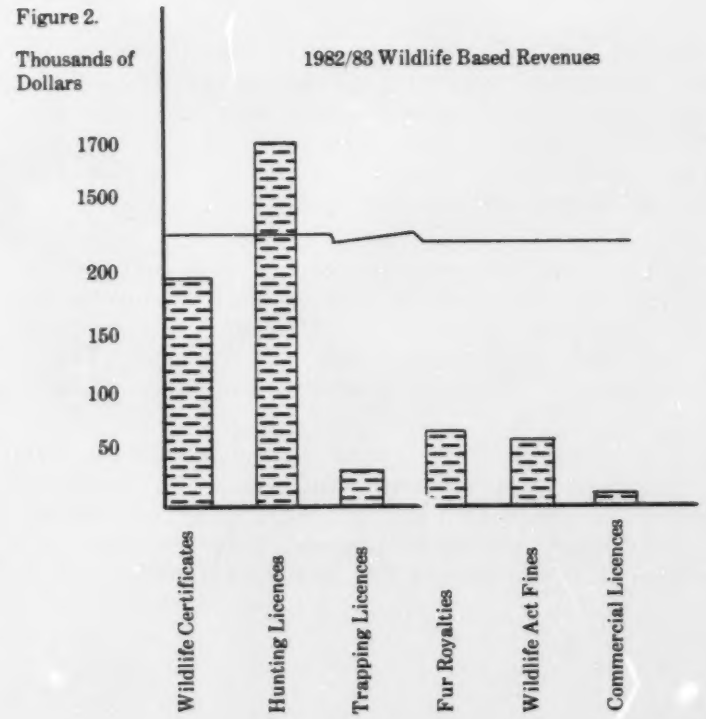


Figure 2.



Biological Services Section

The Biological Services Section undertakes investigations and studies in support of wildlife management and provides biological data for the development of management and habitat programs. Programming includes biometrical support, design standards for ongoing and new programs, monitoring standards for wildlife, wildlife habitat and Branch programming, research grants to universities and the administration of rare and endangered species programs. The section had a staff complement of 14 and a 1982/83 budget of $568,300. The following programs were undertaken or ongoing in 1982/83.

a. Canada Goose Program: Studies on the ecology and hatching success of the Eastern Prairie Population of Canada geese were continued on Cape Churchill. This is a cooperative project with various Canadian and American agencies.

b. Peregrine Falcon Program: This program's objective is to re-establish nesting populations of peregrine falcons in southern Manitoba. Four young falcons obtained from the Canadian Wildlife Service were successfully reared and released in Winnipeg. Monitoring will continue to determine if the birds return to the area.

c. Humane Trapping: This program strives to test and aid in the development of traps which can be used humanely to obtain fur from the wild. In 1982/83, three trap inventors provided test models and 17 trappers field tested 228 traps. In addition 8 models were pen tested.

d. Burrowing Owl Study: This study is to determine the status of the burrowing owl in Manitoba. It involves banding young of the year and monitoring movements to determine population and distribution information. To date, one owl has been found a far south as Texas.

e. Big Game Monitoring: With the exception of moose age and sex surveys, aerial monitoring of deer, elk and moose, normally scheduled, were not conducted due to lack of sufficient snow cover. An aerial survey of the Winnipeg deer herd was conducted. Herd size was estimated to be about 400 animals. Other Big Game monitoring activities included:

1. Winter Severity Index: A winter severity index for determining the effects of winter weather on deer was developed. Through the use of this index, it was determined that although most of southern Manitoba experienced a mild winter, deer in the area north and east of Dauphin experienced more severe conditions. Deer losses due to winter weather in this area were estimated to be in the 15 to 20 percent range.

2. Carcass Autopsy Study: Deer killed by vehicles (on highways and rail lines) were retrieved and autopsied. Biological parameters were measured and the data recorded and analysed as a general indicator of the well-being of the deer herd. Deer were found to be in good condition (except for some of the smaller fawns) and over-winter survival was predicted to be good.

3. Post Winter Dead Deer Search: A search for deer which had died over winter was conducted in a section of land southeast of Virden. The area contained a known number of animals and the search revealed about ten percent mortality.

f. Deer-vehicle Accident Prevention Study: In cooperation with the city of Winnipeg and the Department of Highways, special roadside reflectors were installed along major deer crossing areas. Preliminary results indicate a substantial decrease in the number of collisions on both rural and urban roadways.

g. Red Fox Survey System: The application of a census sytem for red fox currently used in North Dakota proved inconclusive when applied to Manitoba.

h. Beaver lodge Census System: Aerial surveys were conducted to estimate beaver populations in the Interlake and on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Extrapolated beaver populations ranged from 1.1 to 3.9 beaver per square kilometer.

i. Remote Sensing Moose Habitat Inventory: Work started in 1982/83 using satellite data to map moose habitat in the Northern Flood Agreement area of northcentral Manitoba. Statistically designed ground truth sampling to determine map accuracy has been carried out on those maps which have been produced. Habitat maps will be used to design stratified aerial moose surveys in 1983/84 and 1984/85. This project involves staff from the Habitat, Management and Regional Management Sections and the Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre.

j. Manuscript and Technical Reports: Seven reports were completed during the 1982/83 fiscal year. The titles of these reports are:

* An Evaluation of level-ditching in Selected Wetlands of the Manitoba Interlake. T.R. 82-2
* A Resource Inventory of the Mantagao Lake Wildlife Management Area. M.S. 82-3
* Trends in Plant Succession in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park. M.S. 82-6
* Investigation of Techniques for aging Red Fox (Vulpes vulpies)(Desmerest) by Tooth Cementum Annuli. M.S. 80-31
* General Ungulate Model: User's Manual. M.S. 83-2
* A Synopsis of the 1982 Waterfowl Year in Manitoba. M.S. 83-4
* Wildlife Use of Shelterbelts near Lyleton, Manitoba. M.S. 83-8

k. Graduate Student Research: Wildlife research studies completed by graduate students partially supported by grants from the Wildlife Branch include:

* Seasonal Movements, Home range Utilization and Denning Habitats of Black Bears (Ursus americanus) in Western Manitoba by Walter E. Klenner, Department of Zoology, University of Manitoba.
* An Evaluation of Landowner's Attitudes Towards Field Shelterbelts in Agro-Manitoba: A Case Study of the Lyleton Area. by Valerie Sutton, Natural Resource Institute., University of Manitoba.

Habitat Management Section

Habitat Management Section is reponsible for ensuring that sufficient wildlife habitat is available to produce and sustain, in adequate numbers, all species of wildlife in Manitoba. This is accomplished through the direct maintenance and development of habitat on Crown and private lands, the administration of designated wildlife lands and through interaction with government and private agencies. The Habitat Section had 11 staff and a 1982/83 budget of $525,300. The following programs were undertaken or ongoing in 1982/83.

a. Wetlands Management Program: Management of the habitat of Manitoba's marshes is directed through the Habitat Section. The wetlands of Manitoba are significant to North American waterfowl populations and represent one of the most important elements of this section's work. Marsh managers have been assigned to carry out detailed work on the Saskeram, Delta and Oak Hammock Marshes. The principle components of this program in 1982/83 were:

1. Saskeram Marsh Development Program: Efforts were made to resolve the ongoing agriculture-wildlife land use conflicts existing in this area. The Ducks Unlimited (D.U.) Agreement for the Carrot River Triangle portion of the Saskeram Wildlife Management Area (W.M.A.) will terminate in July, 1984 and as a result D.U. prepared a $3.5 million habitat improvement project for the Carrot River Triangle for review. The Saskeram Advisory Committee continued to meet on a regular basis.

2. Delta Marsh Development Program: The 36 year old Clandeboye Dam was removed during the 1982/83 fiscal year. The dam was in a poor state of repair and no longer functional. Maintenance of the Delta Channel structure and landscaping was continued. In

addition, 15 hectares of land were planted to alfalfa and 445 acres of forage were fertilized. Routine monitoring included nest searches, waterfowl brood counts, weekly counts of staging waterfowl and waterfowl hunter bag checks.

3. Netley-Libau Marsh Development Program: A development and management proposal was prepared in 1982/83 identifying four development concepts to maximize waterfowl and furbearer production, minimize land use conflicts and provide guidelines to increase economic benefits to local residents. The proposal will be reviewed to determine if it is feasible for implementation.

4. The Manitoba Heritage Marsh Program: This program was conceived in 1982/83 and is being considered for implementation in 1983/84. It involves a partnership between government and private conservaton organizations, working towards the preservation of valuable large wetlands in the province.

5. Ducks Unlimited: In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited Canada completed 13 new projects in Manitoba in 1983 involving 906 hectares at a costs of $2,280,000. Maintenance of existing projects was carried out as well at a cost of approximately $2,000,000. D.U. participated in designing a plan for rejuvenation of the water regulation system at Oak Hammock Marsh. To date Ducks Unlimited has constructed 355 projects in Manitoba encompassing 620,270 acres of wetlands.

b. Remote Sensing Moose Habitat Inventory: Moose habitat in the Northern Flood Agreement area (152,000 square kilometers) is being mapped through the use of Landsat satellite digital tapes. The end product is computer enhanced and controlled printing of colour-coded habitat maps. When completed, nearly one-fifth of the province will have been mapped using this rapid and cost effective technique.

c. Remote Sensing Deer Habitat Inventory: In cooperation with the Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre, the section has initiated a deer habitat mapping program using data obtained by Landsat satellites. Computer controlled and enhanced colour coded habitat maps will be produced for most of the important deer range in agricultural Manitoba in 1983/84. This will provide a quantitative data base

indicating the amount of wooded cover in selected regions of the province and a dependable basis for determining habitat loss.

d. Deer Habitat Program: This two part project involves the direct improvement of habitat in specified portions of the deer range and the feeding of deer in known, key wintering areas. Program expenditures totalled approximately $66,000 in 1982/83 with 80% expended on deer feeding and 20% on habitat development. Supplemental deer ration (220 tonnes) was fed at 64 different locations, primarily in the southwest and the Interlake. In addition, 32 hectares of forage plots were developed on Wildlife Management Areas (W.M.A.s) in the Interlake and Western Regions.

e. Local Government District Land Trades: Through an ongoing program with Local Government Districts (L.G.D.), lands were acquired in 1982/83 for Wildlife Management Areas in exchange for agriculturally valuable Crown lands outside the W.M.A.s. In the L.G.D. of Alonsa, ten parcels of land (approximately 650 hectares) valued at $64,700 were acquired. In the L.G.D of Armstrong, 145 Crown quarter sections were identified for exchange but additional land is still required to complete all exchanges. Fifty-two parcels of land worth $214,000 were purchased in Grahamdale. Eleven parcels were returned to the L.G.D. and will be removed from Wildlife Management Area status. In Fisher, three parcels appraised at $22,400 have been acquired and negotiations are underway for 12 remaining parcels of L.G.D. land. At present, insufficient Crown land is available to complete these exchanges.

f. Crown Land Planning: In 1982/83 the Wildlife Branch provided input to numerous land allocation issues. Over 300 Crown leases, permits and sales were reviewed while background data were provided for the Department's resource allocation scheme for Crown land on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Wildlife input was provided for 12 Planning Districts in the province. In addition, hunting lodge issues were investigated in Delta Marsh and the Mantagao Lake Wildlife Management Areas.

The Habitat Section continued to provide input to the Crown Land Classification Committee to facilitate ongoing Crown land use and allocation decisions. In an effort to minimize detrimental consequences of land use decisions on wildlife, the Branch reviewed eight Crown land use classification plans, two Provincial Forest and Ecological Reserve plans, 147 Crown land sales, 16 agricultural sale appeals, 415 Crown land exchanges and the 1982 Operational Crown Land Plan for Manitoba.

g. Wildlife Management Area Program: This program involves the administration of the province's 48 Wildlife Management Areas. These lands encompass some 2.9 million hectares throughout Manitoba (Table 3). In 1982/83, 130 hectares of land (red-sided garter snake denning area) was added to the Narcisse W.M.A.. This was a trade for 130 hectares of agriculturally suitable land which was deleted from the Clematis W.M.A.. In cooperation with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, 194 hectares of land was purchased for the Rat River W.M.A.. An additional 518 hectares were added through trade to Alonsa W.M.A. and 3,600 hectares were deleted from four Interlake W.M.A.s. Work started on transferring the administration of agricultural uses in W.M.A.s to the Wildlife Branch. A variety of habitat maintenance and development activities were carried out in W.M.A.s. Some 3000 trees were planted in Southwestern Region, 40 hectares of forage plots were developed in Southeastern and Western Region W.M.A.s and dyke reinforcement and diversion channel construction was carried out in Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A..

h. Habitat Improvement in Provincial Parks: A cooperative white-tailed deer and waterfowl habitat improvement program between Parks Branch and Wildlife Branch was initiated in Birds Hill and Beaudry Provincial Parks in 1982/83. The purpose of the program was to increase wildlife populations for the enjoyment of park visitors. A total of 14 hectares of deer forage fields, 40 hectares of dense nesting cover, and two watering sites were established in conjunction with an ongoing supplemental winter deer feeding program. Additional forage fields, food plots, and watering sites are planned for 1983/84.

Table 3. Wildife Management Area Program

Region	No. of W.M.A.s	Area of W.M.A.s	W.M.A.s established in 1982/83	Lands Purchased	Lands Deleted
Northeast	2	2,399,856 Ha	0	0	0
Northwest	2	310,330 Ha	0	0	0
Western	2	12,445 Ha	0	0	648 Ha (a)
Southwest	17(b)	20,925 Ha	0	194 Ha(c)	0
Southeast	4(b)	7,474 Ha	0	0	2914 Ha (d)
Interlake	22	185,664 Ha	(e)	0	0
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	48	2,936,694 Ha	0	194 Ha	3562 Ha

(a) from Alonsa W.M.A., LGD land exchange
(b) the Pembina Valley WMA is partly in the Southeast Region and partly in the Southeastern Region.
(c) for proposed Rat River W.M.A.
(d) 1878 Ha from Hilbre W.M.A., 712 Ha from Little Birch W.M.A., 324 Ha from Lee Lake W.M.A. for LGD land exchange
(e) 130 Ha added to the Narcisse W.M.A..

Wildlife Management Section

The Wildlife Management Section manages and allocates wildlife stocks in such a manner that viable populations are maintained. This program provides for a variety of subsistence, recreational and commercial uses of wildlife. Northern wildlife management, trapping, recreational hunting, damage prevention and control, wildlife legislation development and wildlife extension are the major program areas of the section. The Wildlife Management Section had 14 staff and a budget of $693,100 in 1982/83. The following are specific management projects.

a. Community Wildlife Management Program: the objective of this program is to explore and develop possibilities for greater utilization of wildife in northern Manitoba. A major emphasis of the program involves consultation with northern people. Through consultation, this cost-shared, federal-provincial program (Canada-Manitoba Northern Development Agreement) identifies and develops consumptive and non-consumptive uses of wildlife. The Community Wildlife program is delivered principally in the northeastern region. The following are sub components of the Community Wildlife Management program.

   1. Barren-ground Caribou Management: Involves monitoring the distribution, populations and harvest of the Beverly and Kaminuriak herds. Evaluations of range suitability and habitat mapping as well as an intensive public consultation program are key elements of the program. In early June, the Beverly-Kaminuriak Barren Ground Caribou Management Agreement was formally signed in Winnipeg. This Agreement, endorsed by several native organizations and communities brought together the governments of Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories in the joint management of these caribou. The Agreement established the Beverly and Kaminuriak Caribou Management Board with eight native and five government representatives.

2. Polar Bear Management: Polar bear movements are monitored and Branch staff work closely with Canadian Wildlife Service staff in their tagging program. Evaluations of historic trapping data were initiated in 1982. This program is closely tied to the polar bear damage control program.

3. Cape Churchill Wildlife Management Area Planning: A management plan for the W.M.A. was prepared and approved by the Branch.

4. Coastal Zone Woodland Caribou Management: Caribou herds in the Cape Churchill and Cape Tatnum W.M.A.s are monitored to assess populations and distribution. Regional caribou harvest is also closely monitored.

5. Guide Training: Administered by the Regional Services Branch of the Department of Natural Resources, this program ensures that an adequate supply of highly trained professional guides are available to the lodges and outfitters of Northern Manitoba. Some 15 new guides were trained in 1982/83.

6. Polar Bear Depredation: This component is administered by the Wildlife Branch but delivered by the Regional Services Branch of the Department. The program strives to prevent situations where polar bears threaten life or property or are themselves harassed by people. This is done through a public information program in Churchill, accurate monitoring of polar bear movements, capturing problem bears and holding them until freeze-up, scaring them from settled areas and if necessary, in cases of danger to life, destroying them. A 24 hour action telephone line is maintained in Churchill during the fall to enable citizens rapidly to contact the Department about polar bear problems.

b. Ross' Gull Conservation: Special legislation, enacted in 1982, created the Churchill Special Conservation Area near the town of Churchill to restrict access to Ross' gull colonies during the critical nesting and young rearing period. Under this regulation, only persons authorized by the Department were allowed to approach closer than 100 metres to posted nesting areas. These steps were taken to prevent nests from being stolen (as happened in 1981). World Wildlife Fund provided funding to enable 24 hour a day watch to be maintained on the nests during the six week nesting season.

c. Northern Flood Agreement: A community consultation procedure was initiated in cooperation with the Northern Flood Agreement Wildlife Advisory and Planning Board. Regular communications were maintained between the Wildlife Branch and the Board on topics concerned with animal populations and government policies and programs. Work started in 1982/83 towards designing an effective moose program for that portion of north central Manitoba. This program's initial objectives are to evaluate quality and quantity of habitats and determine moose densities for the various types of habitat.

d. Wood Bison Reintroduction Program: Preliminary planning and feasibility studies were carried out for re-establishing wood bison in Manitoba. Negotiations with various funding agencies, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Waterhen Indian Band started in 1982/83.

e. Recreational Hunting Program: Sport hunting seasons were held on six species of big game, seven species of upland game birds a wide variety of native ducks and geese as well as coots, rails, cranes and snipe. An estimated 83,000 licenced hunters (Table 4) participated in one or more of these seasons and collectively spent an estimated 54.5 million dollars. These hunters spent approximately 1.2 million days hunting the various species and harvested an estimated 400,000 game birds and 26,500 big game animals.

f. Wild Fur Management and Development Program: The objective of the fur unit which supervises this program is to provide responsive and efficient management of the wild fur resource. The unit provides comprehensive and innovative services to trappers, it also attempts to optimize fur harvests (Table 5) and financial returns to trappers. It encourages trapper self development thereby allowing them to assume a larger and more direct share of the fur management activities. This unit had a staff of 14 and an operating budget of $580,000 ($128,600 through the Department of Northern Affairs) in 1982/83. The following are the components of the Wild Fur Management and Development Program:

1. Field Management: Furbearer populations are monitored and complete fur harvest statistics are compiled and analysed.

Table 4: Hunting License Sales

Type	1982/83*	1981/82	1980/81
Wildlife Certificate	81,225	83,998	83,018
R. game bird	43,689	47,631	50.266
NR. game bird	7,625	8,147	7,584
R. black bear	3,445	3,612	2,340
NR. black bear	342	385	390
R. caribou	303	215	206
R. deer (firearm)	46,815	47,551	43,420
R. deer (archery)	1,891	1,721	1,473
R. deer (muzzle loading)	106	101	102
NR. deer	310	377	226
R. elk (firearm)	2,803	2,253	1,297
R. elk (archery)	434	327	144
R. elk (landowner)	524	253	58
R. moose (firearm)	9,210	9,148	9,400
R. moose (archery)	27	19	43
NR. moose	249	345	348
R. wild turkey	304	425	241
big game license replacement	252	263	155

* subject to audit and revision
R. resident
NR. non resident

2. Trapper Education: Trapper education specialists primarily teach trapping skills. However, they also attempt to acquaint trappers with new developments, advise on marketing and economics and offer training in the use and repair of equipment. Trappers are reached through fur schools offered throughout the province and by radio and brochures.

3. Trapline Development: Funds are provided to assist registered trappers in construction of base camps.

4. Trapline Officer Program: Seven staff years (14 individuals for half a year each) are employed by the department to assist trappers in the field and to monitor fur-bearer populations.

5. Special ARDA Delivery: Fur unit staff work closely with Department of Northern Affairs staff in providing financial assistance to trappers. Funds provided are intended to improve trapper efficiency.

6. M.R.T.A. Grant: The Wildlife Branch provides financial assistance to the Manitoba Registered Trappers Association (M.R.T.A.) to improve trapper participation in fur management.

g. Wildlife Extension Program: This program strives to acquaint Manitobans with the values and attributes of the Province's wildlife resource and to assist the public in gaining access to wildlife programs. The following components are highlights of the wildlife extension program.

1. Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Program: The annual tour program drew over 3500 visitors on guided tours of the marsh. Demand for these tours again outstripped the Branch's ability to provide them. An estimted 30,000 additional visitors are estimated to have taken self guided tours of the marsh. Attendance at Oak Hammock Marsh was up an estimated 16 percent in 1982/83. A crossword puzzle for school children based on life in the marsh was developed.

2. National Wildlife Week: In conjunction with the Canadian and Manitoba Wildlife Federations, the Wildlife Branch was actively involved in the promotion of National Wildlife

Table 5: Wild Fur Production and Value 1981/82 (a)

Species	Number Harvested	Estimated Value	Royalties Paid
Badger	520	$ 24,960	$ 5
Black Bear	381	$ 14,345	$ 19
Beaver	34,133	$ 599,375	$ 25,600
Coyote	7,438	$ 588,792	$ 3,719
Ermine	9,881	$ 19,762	$ 494
Fisher	3,121	$ 483,755	$ 3,121
Fox (red) (b)	14,926	$ 999,443	$ 3,732
Fox (white)	105	$ 4,379	$ 79
Lynx/Bobcat	4,347	$ 1,330,182	$ 2,174
Marten	3,561	$ 139,449	$ 1,781
Mink	14,952	$ 515,844	$ 14,952
Muskrat	145,219	$ 442,918	$ 7,261
Otter	2,098	$ 92,312	$ 2,623
Rabbit (jack)	73	$ ---	$ 1
Raccoon	4,313	$ 126,371	$ 216
Skunk	157	$ 1,099	$ 2
Squirrel (red)	58,731	$ 99,843	$ 1,175
Wolf (timber)	434	$ 57,288	$ 109
Wolverine	128	$ 24,384	$ 96
Total	304,518	$ 5,564,491	$ 67,159

a. Fur year September 1, 1981 to August 31, 1982

b. Includes cross, blue and silver fox.

Week. Displays were set up at shopping centres, the Winnipeg Sportsman's Show and the Festival Du Voyageur. The annual poster and poetry contest drew over 1500 entries from Manitoba school children. A game, based on the life habits of furbearing animals was produced and distributed to schools during this week.

3. Grants: Assistance grants were provided to the magazine "Manitoba Nature" and to the Delta Waterfowl Research Station.

4. Conservation Award Program: The Wildlife Conservation Award was introduced in 1982/83 to recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations for their contributions to wildlife. The first award was made to Alexander MacPhail of Shoal Lake for his donation of 65 hectares of land for a wildlife refuge.

5. Information Brochures: The extension program is responsible for the production of the Department's wildlife oriented brochures and publications. Approximately 40 publications are now available on a wide variety of wildlife and wildlife management topics. A complete list of publications is on page 31.

h. Waterfowl Management Plan: Branch staff started work on the Manitoba Waterfowl Action Plan in 1982, under guidelines provided in the Waterfowl Management Plan for Canada. The Action Plan will describe intent, defines responsibilities and outlines location, timing and cost of essential waterfowl management programs.

i. Muskox Reintroduction Program: A preliminary study was undertaken to assess the biological and economic feasibility of reintroducing muskox from the Northwest Territories to their historic Manitoba Range.

j. Damage Prevention Program: Wildlife damage prevention and compensation programs administered by the Branch are designed to prevent damage by wildlife to property and compensate citizens for losses to certain agricultural

crops (Table 6). Federal-provincial agreements cover the waterfowl crop damage prevention and compensation programs, beaver control in the Riding Mountain area and polar bear control in the Churchill area. All other damage control programs are provincially funded. Big game damage compensation is administered by the Department of Natural Resources with field inspections handled by the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture.

1. Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention: This program is designed to assist producers in preventing damage to crops by ducks, geese and cranes by scaring feeding birds from private crops. In addition, lure crops of barley are planted by the Branch or purchased from farmers in order to attract birds away from other fields. Lure crops were planted on Crown land at Oak Hammock Marsh (247 hectares), Grant's Lake (47 hectares), Delta Marsh (57 hectares) and Pleasant Valley (18 hectares) at a cost of $57,000. In addition private corps were purchased and designated as lure crops at Big Grass Marsh (20 hectares) and the Pasquia Project Area (121 hectares) at a cost of $40,000. Program cost totalled $252,488.

2. Waterfowl Damage Compensation: This program, designed to complement the damage prevention program, reduces financial losses suffered by farmers when waterfowl damage their crops. This program was 50% cost-shared between Canada and Manitoba under the provisions of the 1982/83 Waterfowl Crop Damage Compensation Program Agreement. Under the program each farmer whose crops are damaged was paid up to $50.00 per acre up to a maximum total grant of $10,000. Table 6 shows the number of claims processed and the total 1982/83 program costs. This program was transferred to the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Agriculture effective April 1, 1983.

3. Big Game Crop Damage Prevention: Assists farmers in preventing damage to farm produce by deer, elk, moose and bear. Scaring devices and repellants are provided to farmers by the Branch. In addition,

portable feeders are used to intercept deer and elk which regularly feed on haystacks. Grants are also available to aid beekeepers in preventing bear damage to apiaries. In addition, two farmers were issued materials to erect deer proof fences around haystack yards. The Department responded to 156 deer, 45 elk and 28 moose complaints.

4. Big Game Damage Compensation: This program partially compensates farmers for damage to crops by big game. Table 6 shows the number of claims processed and the total cost of this program in 1982/83.

5. Problem Beaver Control: The Department assists citizens to control beaver damage to roads, crops and buildings. Control is accomplished by removing dams and the problem beavers. Beaver complaints totalled 925 in 1982/83. In the Riding Mountain area, a more intensive control program was undertaken jointly between the Department and Parks Canada. The Department responded to 166 complaints in the special control area and expended $26,534.

6. Wolf, Coyote and Fox Control: The Department encourages citizens to initiate damage prevention measures for these species. However, Departmental staff or trappers hired by the Department will remove offending animals when individuals are unable to remedy the problem. In 1982/83, 129 wolf, 24 coyote and 36 fox damage complaints were responded to by the Department.

7. Polar Bear Control: This program, cost shared under the Canada/Manitoba Northern Development Agreement, reduces the threat posed by polar bears to human life or property. Polar bear movements are monitored, problem bears are trapped and held until freeze-up, and a 24 hour patrol is maintained in Churchill during the peak season. Table 7 presents a brief summary of the control program along the Hudson Bay Coast.

Table 6. 1982/83 Wildlife Damage Compensation

	No. of Claims	Payment	Average/Claim
Waterfowl	127	214,366.20	1,687.92
Blackbear - beehives	87	44,525.12	511.78
Blackbear - crops	22	9,904.54	450.20
Deer	48	67,914.54	1,414.89
Elk	22	25,296.08	1,149.82
Deer and Elk	23	17,292.59	751.85
TOTAL	329	379,299.67	1,152.89

Table 7. Polar Bear Control

	1982	1981	1980
Reports of bears in Churchill	76	56	32
Bears killed or found dead[a]	7	11	5
Bears sent to zoos	0	0	1

[a] includes all polar bears killed or found dead from all causes in Manitoba. Many of these occur away from the Churchill area.

k. Commercial and Subsistence Wildlife Use: Wildlife Management Staff issued permits and monitored garter snake harvesters, game farm and game bird farm operators. A total of 64,992 garter snakes were harvested by 20 individual and 17 family pickers. These were sold for a total value to the pickers of $25,996.80. Annual game bird farm licences were issued to 111 operators. Three tanner's licenses, 44 taxidermist licenses, 10 commercial dog trainer licenses, 171 fur dealer licenses and 3 shooting preserve licenses were issued. Consultation on subsistence wildife use was undertaken with 15 bands and tribal councils across Manitoba. Joint wildlife management agreements are being negotiated with some Indian bands.

Regional Wildlife Management

The Wildlife Branch field operations are primarily implemented by the Regional Wildlife Management Section. This section comprising a staff of 13, is divided among the seven Department of Natural Resources regions (Map 1). The objective of this section is the delivery and evaluation of wildlife field programs. Public consultation on the local level is a significant aspect of this Section's work. The budget for the 1982/83 fiscal year was $522,600. Staff are located in Winnipeg, Thompson, Churchill, The Pas, Dauphin, Brandon, Gimli and Beausejour.

The principal activities of this section are as follows:

1. Wildlife Management Area Program: Regional staff's primarily activity is centered on management of the province's W.M.A.s. Work involves routine administration, habitat monitoring and improvement, planning, access improvement and signing boundaries. Please see section g under Habitat Management for more information.

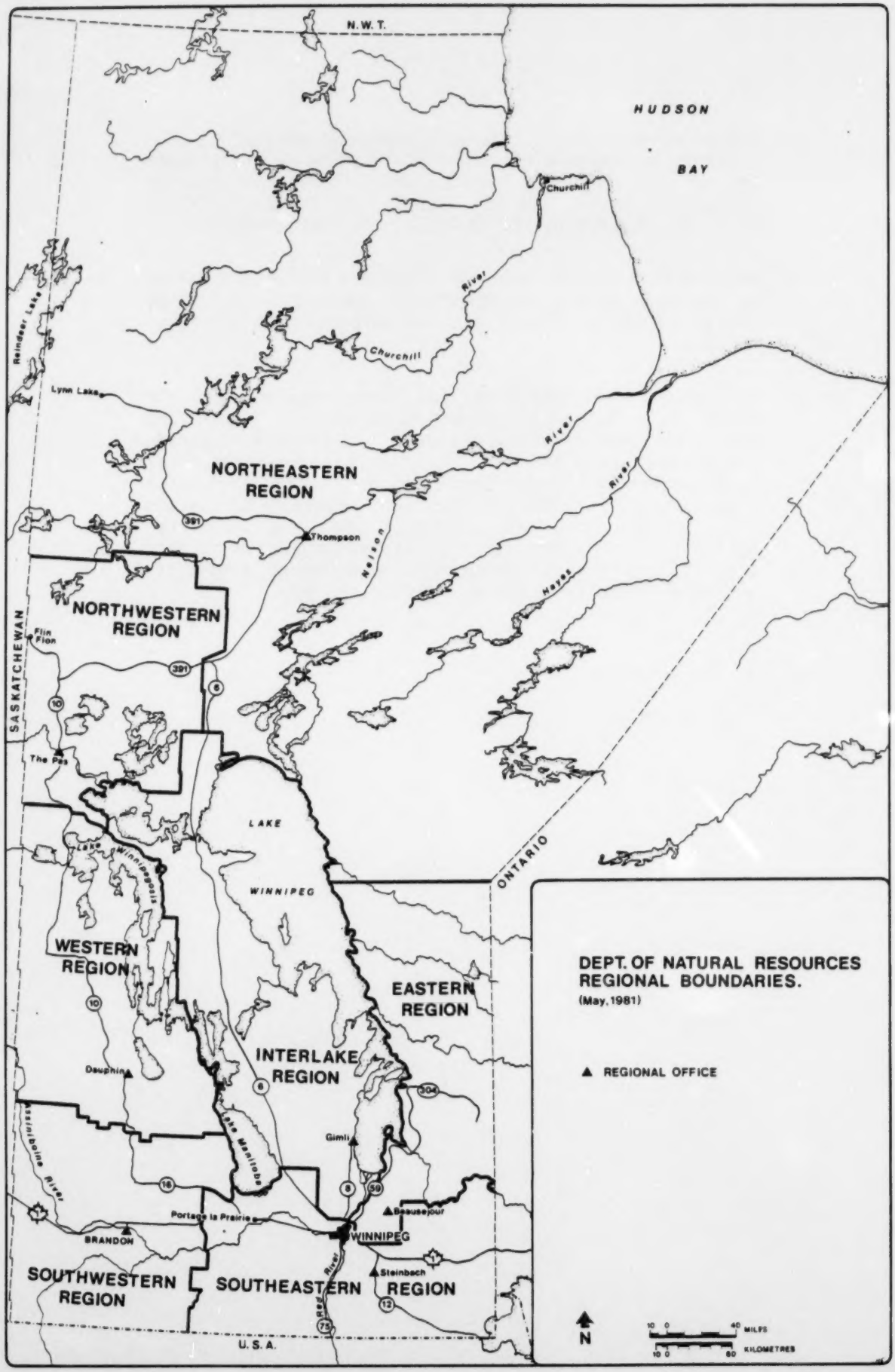
2. Hunting: Work on the hunting program involves assisting with the setting of seasons and bag limits, the administration of designated routes during the hunting season and the monitoring of hunters (through check stations and questionnaires). Essential data for programming are collected, collated and analyzed. Note Part e of the Wildlife Management Section for more detail.

3. Public Liaison: Public liaison takes the form of attending public meetings, responding to public enquiries, working with local advisory committees, interacting with local governments, explaining wildlife management programs through local newspapers and radio/TV interviews. Of note were efforts relating to the Winnipeg Airport deer herd, contacts with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Manitoba Naturalists Society and various agricultural groups. Regional Wildlife Specialists assisted the Wildlife Federation in acquiring and site-planning wildlife habitat in the Southwestern and Southeastern Regions. They also provided advice and assistance to private landowners wishing to develop or reserve land for wildlife habitat.

4. Interpretive Program: The development of public information programming and wildlife tours is significant in various regions, particularly involving Wildlife Management Areas such as Brandon Hills, Souris River Bend, Oak Hammock Marsh, Narcisse, and Cape Churchill.

5. Population Surveys: Regional staff are actively involved in various aspects of population monitoring including aerial surveying of big game and waterfowl and waterfowl banding.

6. Land Use: Field biologists and technicians are actively involved in multi-disciplined assessment of Crown land use plans and requests, through local Block Planning Committees. These Committees, comprised of representatives from Agriculture, Lands, Wildife, Fisheries and Forestry Branches meet regularly to discuss and ratify land use coding. Regional Wildlife Specialists also provide professional inputs in to Park Planning, watershed management, development proposals, and departmentally approved research projects.


N.W.T.
HUDSON
BAY
Churchill
Churchill River
Reindeer Lake
Lynn Lake
NORTHEASTERN REGION
391
Thompson
Nelson River
Hayes River
NORTHWESTERN REGION
SASKATCHEWAN
Flin Flon
391
10
6
The Pas
LAKE WINNIPEG
Lake Winnipegosis
ONTARIO
WESTERN REGION
EASTERN REGION
10
Dauphin
INTERLAKE REGION
6
304
Gimli
Lake Manitoba
Assiniboine River
16
8
59
1
Portage la Prairie
Beausejour
BRANDON
WINNIPEG
Steinbach
SOUTHWESTERN REGION
SOUTHEASTERN REGION
Red River
12
75
U.S.A.
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGIONAL BOUNDARIES.
(May, 1981)
▲ REGIONAL OFFICE
N
10 0 40 MILES
10 0 60 KILOMETRES

Natural Resources Wildlife Publications

Available in 1982/83

Manitoba Game Bird Big Game 1982 Seasons
Trapping Seasons 1982-83
Five-year Report to the Legislature on Wildlife (March, 1983)
Land for Wildlife and People
Bird Check Lists
- Birds of the Delta Marsh
- Birds of Oak Hammock
- Birds of Churchill

Sioux Pass Marsh Area Guide
Canada Geese of the Hudson Bay Lowlands
A Nestbox for Wood Ducks
A Home for Purple Martins
A Home for Swallows and Bluebirds
Enjoying Winter Bird Feeders
The White-tailed Deer in Manitoba
The Wild Dogs
The Great White Bears
Bears, Outdoors and You
Extinct, Rare and Endangered Wildlife in Manitoba
The Manitoba Trapper's Guide
Field Handling of Game
Preventing Bear Damage to Beehives
Preventing Big Game Damage to Crops
Oak Hammock Managed Hunting Area Hunter Information
Grant's Lake Managed Hunting Area Hunter Information
Watching for Nanook
Wildlife Protection in Manitoba (Species List)
Sampling of Manitoba Nature
Wildlife Management Area Brochures
- Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A.
- Mantagao Lake W.M.A.
- Narcisse W.M.A.
- Sleeve Lake - Little Birch W.M.A.
- Broomhill W.M.A.
- Lauder Sandhills W.M.A.
- Souris River Bend W.M.A.

Conservation Comments
- The White Whales of Manitoba
- Manitoba's Barrenground Caribou
- Hudson Bay Wildlife Adventure
- Wildlife in Distress
- The Bow and Arrow - a Sport For All Seasons
- Trappers and Trapping (Myth vs Reality)